

INFORMATION PAPER

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SUBJECT: National Guard Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP)

1. Purpose. The DTTP is the technology component of the National Guard Bureau's distance learning initiative. DTTP provides community-based distributive learning classrooms increasing access to military training at the lowest possible cost. The project is also demonstrating the significant value-added concept of sharing installed technology with the communities in which the National Guard is based. The project complements the Total Army Distance Learning Program (TADLP) by providing additional classrooms and access in communities not currently addressed in the Army Distance Learning Plan.
2. Facts.
 - a. DTTP was initiated in 1995 as a Congressionally sponsored demonstration project to exhibit distance learning capabilities and the shared usage concept. The "Demonstration Project" later renamed DTTP as a state-of-the-art communications and learning-delivery system designed to support the Guard's traditional and expanding operations at home and abroad. DTTP uses open system architecture with commercial off-the-shelf technology, and application of best business practices.
 - b. Mission requirements are to improve readiness by providing greater access to military training and education; facilitate Command, Control, and Communications within the National Guard; and to foster economic development, improve educational levels, and provide information access through shared use with the communities in which the Guard is based.
 - c. TADLP and DTTP representatives developed a consolidated list of prioritized TADLP and DTTP classroom installations under a U.S. Army TRADOC initiative, with participation from the ARNG and USAR. This list coordinates and prioritizes installations between Army, Guard, and Reserve locations. One of the objectives of this effort is to provide a classroom within 50 miles of 95% of the soldiers in each state. The total number of DTTP classrooms identified for fielding is 519.
 - d. DTTP converts available space in armories, colleges, libraries and other locations into high tech classrooms linked via state-of-the-art telecommunications to centralized training and teleconference facilities in all 50 states, 3 territories, and the District of Columbia, resulting in a fully interactive training infrastructure where both military and civilian studies can be conducted. To date, 334 classrooms have been installed in a wide variety of configurations. Classrooms are connected by GuardNet, the NG network that carries voice, video, and data for NGB initiatives. The Network Operations Center that supports the Guard's learning and delivery infrastructure is located in the Army National Guard Willow Oaks facility, Fairfax, Virginia.
 - e. The Guard Collaborative Learning Source (GCLS) is a software enhancement of DTTP that offers a resource for accessing program and content information. Recent GCLS enhancements added classroom metrics functionality. JITPD supported the development of various ECPs to enhance the reporting and validation processes of classroom usage data.
 - f. Collaboration between organizations, e.g., federal, state, public, private, is ongoing. Partnerships are focused on fully implementing the program's potential for extending educational venues into communities across the country. Under this "shared use" approach, classroom facilities are made available to all non-Guard users on a space available reimbursable basis. The synergistic effect of this approach is the expansion of access to automated information, training and communications capabilities across the nation, while at the same time helping to defray the cost of operating the system. The eventual impact on improved mobilization, readiness and community access is expected to be substantial. Cooperative agreements were designed for the states to begin collecting program income generated from the shared use of the classrooms with other organizations.
 - g. DTTP is a partner with the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Co-Laboratory in Alexandria, Virginia. The Co-lab provides a collaborative environment where content and tools can be shared and common guidelines and standards can be developed, tested and implemented. The collaboration is occurring between the federal government, industry, academia, state and local entities. ADL partnerships between the federal government,

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private sector technology suppliers and the broader education and training community will be the means for formulating voluntary guidelines that will meet common needs.

h. The RCAS program and the acquisition mission of DTTP have been consolidated under one Project Office and contract vehicle (the Automated Information Technology Services (AITS) contract).

3. Capabilities and Acknowledgements.

a. One of DTTP's top priorities is to ensure that National Guard troops are prepared for their missions. To do so, it provides access to training courseware and content, covering such topics as anti-terrorism; nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare; emergency first response; combat skills; medical training; and military training.

b. DTTP provides tools and resources to help Guard leadership adequately train reduced forces and better coordinate emergency-management functions. DTTP's classrooms can support command and control operations, simultaneously connecting Guard leadership with state and federal emergency management agencies, as well as other disaster-related resources. From tracking storm progress to monitoring personnel assignments and locations, DTTP allows leadership to make better, faster decisions based on the most up-to-date information available.

c. DTTP is playing a key role in meeting the needs of mobilized troops and their families. By leveraging its advanced distributed learning and communications technologies, DTTP helps Guardsmen prepare for their missions, take care of personal matters prior to deployment, and, once deployed, communicate with their loved ones across thousands of miles.

d. In July 2005, twenty new soldiers received Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) training over a two-day period using the Camp Rell/Niantic DTTP classroom. SINCGARS supports field communications, and the training is critical to the Connecticut unit's successful deployment.

e. In 2005, DTTP provided distance learning support to the NGB-J3/DO-HD Science Advisor for an Advanced Hazardous Air Pollution monitor on Site (HAPSITE) Training Program. Medical officers and staffs from state CSTs involved leveraged DTTP classrooms to complete the training.

f. In June 2005, the Florida ARNG in partnership with Troy State University, recently collaborated on a program where six Guardsmen received Masters degrees in Management via DL. All the courses were taken from DTTP classrooms.

g. To help mourners pay their respects to Utah's first fallen soldier in the current conflict, the Utah ARNG installed a portable VTC at a remote armory and broadcast the funeral services to three other sites within the state.

h. Camp Shelby, MS, is being used as a staging area for deployment. As part of this effort, DTTP classrooms are being used as Internet Cafes, where deploying soldiers can conduct personal business. In May 2005, there were 2340 individual uses of the classroom by deploying soldiers who were standing in line to wait their turn.

i. The NY JFHQ use the Latham DTTP classroom for Command and Control operations as part of enhanced anti-terrorism activities in the wake of the 2005 London terrorist attacks. JFHQ personnel use the state's VTC capabilities to conduct a daily VTC among three NY sites and the 53rd troop command, whose commanding general oversees all HLS missions in the state. This mission is ongoing.

j. DTTP assets were employed by many states to assist in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, providing tools and resources needed to bolster command, control, and communications between onsite responders and leaders in other parts of the region. TXARNG DTTP supported situational awareness and strategic response planning by bridging ISISCS at Superdome in New Orleans with NGB HQ and MS JFHQ; Emergency Operations Center Personnel at Austin classroom; and the Assistant TAG, JStaff, G3, and others at Austin classroom. WVARNG supported C2 updates using DTTP and ISISCS unit in Belle Chasse, LA. COARNG and MOARNG also deployed ISISCS teams to help.

k. In North Dakota, a recruiter leveraged DTTP assets to conduct a VTC between Fargo and Bismarck, testing the ability of the resources to support his recruitment efforts. During the one-hour "Job Shadow" VTC, a Fargo high school student interested in the IT field spoke with Bismarck IT personnel about their jobs and day-to-day activities. The student was so impressed that he wrote to the Fargo South Career Center stating how beneficial the VTC was to him in planning his career. The high school, too, saw great value in the program and will likely send more students with varying career goals to the recruiter to participate in these shadow programs.

I. The DTTP is an investment of over \$510.9M through FY05 and is anticipated to increase by an additional \$245.7M through its life cycle (FY11). Although DTTP was recognized in the Program Objectives Memorandum for FY04-11, garnering the required resources to sustain a healthy program has been challenging. Project funding for operations and maintenance has been reduced and Congressional support has waned while program requirements have increased. Only a small percentage of DTTP's validated requirements are funded in FY06-11.